

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 5145

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT UK YO ELAB

SUBJECT: BRITISH LABOR AND YUGOSLAV COMMUNISTS

1. AS PART OF THEIR DRIVE TO REDEFINE AND BROADEN THE INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK OF COOPERATION AMONG SOCIALISTS-- LOWERING THE BARRIERS TO RELATIONS WITH WESTERN EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS AND THUS RAISING THE BARRIERS TO SOVIET CLAIMS OF IDEOLOGICAL TOGETHERNESS AND HEGEMONY IN EASTERN EUROPE-- THE YUGOSLAVS HAVE INTENSIFIED THEIR WOOING OF THE BRITISH LABOR PARTY. LATEST CHAPTER IS VISIT HERE OF LABOR PARTY GENERAL SECRETARY RON HAYWARD SEPT 14-16.

2. BRITISH EMBOFF WHO BRIEFED US ON VISIT NOTED BRITISH-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS HAVE INVARIABLY BEEN BETTER UNDER CONSERVATIVE THAN UNDER LABOR GOVERNMENTS. MANY IN LABOR SEE NO DIFFERENCE AMONG COMMUNIST GOVERNMENTS--A VIEW REINFORCED BY THEIR STRONG FEELINGS FOR DJILAS. THUS ONE OF MAJOR PURPOSES OF HAYWARD'S VISIT WAS TO MAKE YUGOSLAVS AWARE OF NEED TO DO SOME EDUCATING. HE AND HOST, LEAGUE OF COMMUNISTS SECRETARY STANE DOLANC, BRIEFLY REVIEWED INTERNATIONAL SITUATION BUT DEVOTED MOST OF THEIR TIME TO DISCUSSION INTERNAL PARTY PROBLEMS AND INTER-PARTY RELATIONS. DOLANC CHARACTERIZED ANOMALOUS STATE OF LABOR-LCY RELATIONSHIP BY NOTING ONLY
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TWO EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HE HAD NOT VISITED WERE BRITAIN AND ALBANIA. BRITISH EMBASSY NOT INCLUDED IN ALL TALKS BUT

UNDERSTANDS FROM HAYWARD THAT HE, SENSITIVE TO POSSIBLE REACTION IN BRITAIN A LA SHELEPIN, GAVE DOLANC ONLY GENERAL INVITATION TO VISIT UK. INCREASED YUGOSLAV VISITS AND CONTACTS HAVE BEEN BY FRONT-ORGANIZATION SAWPY RATHER THAN LCY ITSELF.

3. ON OTHER HAND, DOLANC GAVE HAYWARD CARTE BLANCHE TO SEND STEADY FLOW OF LABOR PARTY OFFICIALS AND STUDY GROUPS TO YUGOSLAVIA. NEXT STAGE WILL BE MID-NOVEMBER VISIT BY TRADE UNION COUNCIL SECRETARY GENERAL LEN MURRAY ACCOMPANIED BY JACK JONES.

4. SECOND MAJOR SUBJECT OF HAYWARD DISCUSSIONS WAS FUTURE VISIT BY PM WILSON. WHEN HAYWARD DELIVERED TO TITO WILSON LETTER CONVEYING ONLY FRATERNAL GREETINGS, TITO REACTED STRONGLY SAYING "WHAT IS THE USE OF THIS? WHEN IS HE COMING?" YUGOSLAWS PUSHED FOR VISIT BEFORE NEXT YEAR--WHICH HAD BEEN TENTATIVE BRITISH THINKING. NO DATE SET AS YET.
SILBERMAN

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